Blast in Durgapur Steel Plant

1485. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a blast in Durgapur Steel Plant recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was an explosion on June 15, 1987 in the gas washer of blast furnace No. 4 of Durgapur Steel Plant.

Two workers, Shri S. P. Sahaa and Shri B. Das, were engaged in cleaning the spray nozzles of washer No. 7 and 8 of blast furnace No. 4 which was under shut-down. The washers had been isolated, depressurised and purged with steam and cooled. The two workers received burn injuries due to the explosion. Shri Saha died immediately while Shri Das succumbed to injuries on June 18, 1987.

The Enquiry Committee headed by Deputy General Manager (Services), investigated into the accident and came to the conclusion that the accident occurred because of the formation of an explosive mixture inside the washer No. 7 which was ignited by the accidental bursting of the bulb of the electrical hand lamp inside the washer for illumination.

Profits of Sail

1486. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the profit of SAIL have slumped in 1986-87; and

(b) if so, what are the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) SAIL's profits for 1986-87 will be known only after its accounts for the year have been finalised.

Rice production

1487. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the target for the production of rice in 1986-87;

(b) what was the actual production in 1986-87; and

(c) what are the reasons for shortfall; if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Planning Commission fixed a target of 65 million tonnes for production of rice in 1986-87.

(b) Production of rice during 1986-87 is currently assessed to be in the range of 60.0 to 60.5 million tonnes.

(c) Compared to the target, production of rice declined in 1986-87 due to unfavourable weather conditions/damage due to floods in some of the principal rice growing States.

Foodgrains to Kerala under rural employment guarantee programme

1488. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Government has demanded for supply of foodgrains worth Rs. ten crores under Rural Employment Guarantee Programme in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?